Laghman Province

OVERVIEW

USAID estimated support for Laghman from January 2002 - June 2011: \$70.9 million

Estimated population: 397,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of

Afghanistan 2008-2009) Capital: Mihtarlam Note: U.S.-led PRT



The province of Laghman comprises a Dari- and Pashto-speaking Pashtun majority, with Kuchi nomads bringing their herds to graze in the winter months. While much of the province's economy was destroyed during the war with the Soviet Union, the region continues to host both agricultural and mining activities. The paved Jalalabad Highway connects the province to major commercial centers, which has recently boosted the economy. While most of the area lacks a modern infrastructure, hydro-electric stations provide electricity to approximately half the population.

AGRICULTURE

Goal: Increase agricultural sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

Summary: USAID focuses on enabling farmers to transition from subsistence to surplus farming through the provision of seeds and fertilizers, livestock development, improvement of irrigation and market infrastructure, and training.

Current Activities:

- Identify appropriate agricultural technologies to increase agricultural productivity in areas subject to seasonal drought and high risks of land degradation, deforestation, or loss of biodiversity
- · Establish demonstration plots of wheat crop
- Provide technical assistance and technical training to farmers
- Provide orchard development and training in perennial crops
- Improve production of quality high-value produce, train an estimated 3,000 farmers
- Provide technical assistance to farmers to enhance their capacity for orchard management

Accomplishments:

 Constructed or rehabilitated 15 canals and 19 flood protection walls to provide improved access to irrigation for more than 6,860 hectares of land



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- Established one full-service farm store that continues to provide agriculture supplies and services to support licit crops and animal health, and has benefitted 3,102 rural households, trained 1,780 individuals, created 20 full-time equivalent jobs, and increased sales by \$838,000
- Constructed or rehabilitated 37 km of farm-to-market roads, decreasing transport time for farmers and providing employment and training for local workers
- Implemented one road project that employed 103 men
- Trained more than 768 women to maintain the health of their livestock and continue to provide veterinary services
- Trained 348 farmers in modern agriculture practices on commercial and small demonstration farms
- Promoted livestock health through support of avian influenza detection and outbreak management, support of a livestock management program, and establishment of one self-sustaining veterinary field unit
- Developed skills and created employment opportunities through cash-for-work projects for more than 11,460 men and women, providing more than \$3 million in wages.
- Modernized market intelligence systems using e-mail, the Internet, and cell phones, which continue to
 provide agriculture information for five regional markets through both daily reports to thousands of
 subscribers and text messages to people requesting price information
- Provided improved vegetable seeds, fertilizer, and technical assistance to 3,100 farmers to increase productivity, improve farm-gate quality, and increase access to agricultural markets
- Distributed seed and fertilizer vouchers to 53,300 famers
- Established three orchards on 560 hectares of land and distributed 173,900 of fruit trees to approximately 1,000 farmers
- Provided high-yield vegetable and wheat seeds, as well as fertilizer, to more than 47,300 farmers
- Provided training to 108 farmers and farm laborers on crop production, post-harvest handling, packaging, and marketing for okra, tomato, eggplant, cucumber, and watermelon
- Established 70 demonstration plots and four village-based seed enterprises, as well as provided practical training to more than 400 farmers
- Trained 1,480 Afghans in business management skills and provided additional off-farm business skills training to 143 individuals working in different micro-enterprises
- Provided vocational training for more than 90 disabled and vulnerable women to enable them to obtain employment, earn an income, and become more financially secure
- Helped women establish their own businesses, including canteens, bakeries, women's apparel stores, beauty parlors and small shops
- Established three commercial demonstration farms and 32 small demonstration farms that have provided training related to modern crop production practices for thousands of farmers
- Installed 16 farm turnouts
- Established the Laghman Farm Service Center that provides agricultural inputs and services, and has produced sales of \$3.4 million and created 21 full-time equivalent jobs
- Trained 3,400 farmers in agriculture related activities
- Benefited 26 individuals through financial agreements
- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law on behalf of herders
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods
- Supported provincial Kuchi Shura
- Assisted 17,000 farmers through voucher programs
- Facilitated sorting, grading, improved packing, and export documentation for more than \$500,000 worth of onion exports for local farmers



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- Distributed improved vegetable varieties through voucher programs to 7,600 farmers
- Established 10 hectares of new orchards and provided training on land preparation, layout, and planting techniques for 35 farmers

DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE

Goal: Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of government services to Afghan citizens.

Summary: USAID builds the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of government services to citizens in Laghman Province through activities including supporting the justice sector, community based alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, media, civil-society, and governance development.

Current Activities:

- Provide capacity building training to four civil-society organizations
- Support a radio station
- Provide training to the provincial council, which improves professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations
- Develop the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increase access to justice particularly for women, and develop and implement a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system
- Create district-level governance councils under the auspices of the Independent Directorate for Local Government
- Support accountable municipal governance, improved municipal delivery of public services, and improved generation and management of municipal revenue in provincial capitals
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop
- Build the capacity of community based alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, supporting and building the capacity of elders' networks through facilitating meetings and training, providing training to community members on community based alternative dispute resolution and legal rights

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 25 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 19 sitting
 judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for 24 judicial
 candidates, providing judges with access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code



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- Built a judicial facility in Qarghayi District
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, thereby making information accessible even to those who cannot read
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided capacity building training to four civil-society organizations
- Supported a radio stations
- Awarded 16 grants
- Trained 228 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

Summary: USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes a lawful economy in Laghman Province through expanding access to telecommunications and modern banking services.

Current Activities:

- Support the Ministry of Finance's provincial budgeting team and provincial budgeting officers based in the Jalalabad training hub, to conduct budgeting training programs and provide technical assistance to provincial officials in preparing annual budget estimates
- Support factories through value-chain improvement grants to improve businesses, strengthen market linkages and create more job opportunities

- Facilitated and launched the Afghan government (Afghan government) effort to connect provincial government offices with Kabul through broadband technology (this Government Communications Network facilitates active, transparent governance by linking national- and local-level decision-makers)
- Installed four district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services for district government officials and the public
- Promoted economic related information and data collection activities to build Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB)
 regional economic research and analytical function introduced in DAB zone offices
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided additional communications technology and training for bank staff, and expanded and refurbished the provincial branch of DAB that operates as the paying agent for the government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments (services such as these increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan, contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors)
- Conducted a banking survey in July 2007 to determine basic banking habits of the public, including the extent that bank accounts are used, whether banks were used for changing money, and to gauge the interest in obtaining bank loans to start new businesses or purchase homes



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- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Laghman Mustofiat, which has dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts
- Trained 43 Laghman officials in effective planning and budget estimate preparation to increase their participation in the national budget process by developing inputs that reflect local needs and priorities
- Funded vegetable marketing programs in Qarghayi and Mihtarlam to promote private-sector growth
- Constructed one market and one set of market latrines to improve commercial infrastructure
- Supported business association development (seven new associations have been founded to date, and a business association incubator was launched within the Agriculture Directorate)
- Supported vocational and business skills training for women in Qarghayi District to empower a traditionally disadvantaged population
- Successfully graduated 50 participants in an internship program which led to permanent job opportunities
- Trained more than 176 entrepreneurs from various small and medium enterprises in business development and management and supported 277 small and medium enterprises
- Promoted economic expansion and rural enterprise development through micro-credit lending
- Disbursed more than \$4.9 million in microfinance loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Established one Islamic investment and finance cooperative and one point of service with 3,000 members (7.6 percent women)
- Disbursed \$1.5 million in sharia-compliant loans
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Laghman Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation

EDUCATION

Goal: Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; support community-base education; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.

Summary: USAID supports educational improvements in Laghman through three national education projects. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided support to local communities through capacity strengthening in partnerships with non-government organizations and Ministry of Education personnel, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

Current Activities:

- Provide radio-based teacher support programs in order to improve teachers' skills and performance in the classroom
- Support 46 community-based school classes and five adult literacy centers in two districts to expand access and quality of education in areas where there are no formal schools
- Offer literacy and productive skills training to youth and adults
- Continue textbook support

- Integrated 23 community based education classes into the Ministry of Education system
- Established 185 literacy centers for 4,470 youth and adults (71 percent female) in 48 communities
- Constructed 20 schools



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Printed nearly 2.5 million textbooks

HEALTH

Goal: Improve the access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

Summary: USAID's principal health investments in Laghman Province come through nationwide programs, including support for health and family planning products, pre-service training for community midwives, and provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

Current Activities:

- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in five sentinel sites
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS)
- Establish provincial quality assurance committee to ensure skilled healthcare providers
- Launched a community-based midwifery education program to reduce infant mortality and improve mothers' reproductive health
- Train community health worker trainers and community health supervisors, and orient new nongovernment organization staff, to expand the use of post-partum family planning
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians

Accomplishments:

- Trained 13,800 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: Improve infrastructure in order to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

Summary: The infrastructure program for Laghman Province focuses on the construction of roads and water and sanitation facilities while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

Current Activities:

- Improve health and sanitation through community-led training on proper hygiene and sanitation and the construction of additional bore wells
- Build the Qarghayi District Bridge and 4 km of road to link the community to its neighbors and encourage trade

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Accomplishments:

- Increased access to potable water through the construction of 169 bore wells in Qarghayi and Mihtarlam districts
- Constructed the Department of Power and Energy building addition
- Rehabilitated the Abizai Bridge, road, and culvert in Qarghayi District, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and facilitating access to health services and educational institutions
- Provided protection from floods through the construction of two retaining walls, including the Alishing district bazaar protection wall
- Constructed or refurbished 137 wells to increase access to water supply and improve the health of people, livestock, and crops
- Constructed Alishing, Alingar, and Dawlat Shah district government buildings to improve delivery of government services
- Upgraded the four-kilometer Mendrawar Junction to Qarghayi Road to extend economic development, and government and social services to the rural areas

STABILIZATION

Goal: Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan Government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

Summary: USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community development projects.

Current Activities:

- Support community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)
- Provide tailored assistance to fit the circumstances of war-affected families

- Provided technical support to the Provincial Development Council during the writing of the Provincial Development Plan
- Provided capacity-building, technical training, and mentoring for the governor's office, the Provincial Development Council, and provincial ministries
- Built five suspension bridges, facilitating trade routes and access to schools, health clinics, and governance centers
- Equipped and furnished the governor's office and other Afghan government offices to create a more professional working environment and to foster better service provision to the constituents of the province
- Rehabilitated 49 irrigation canals to improve agricultural access to irrigation
- Conducted vocational training for 390 young men
- Improving the health of local communities and their livestock by training farmers in animal care, disease identification, and vaccination technique
- Engaged communities in reforestation and the establishment of family-owned nurseries
- Offered vocational training to more than 440 women necessary to launch careers in poultry farming and cheese production



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• Helped more than 73 war-affected families through the delivery of small business kits for incidents in Groch Village, Mehterlam District\